

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02456 151351Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /081 W
-----151529Z 039630 /47

R 151231Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9305
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 2456

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, EE, PO, BE
SUBJECT: SOARES VISIT TO BELGIUM

1. PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES VISITED BRUSSELS
MARCH 11-12 COMPLETING HIS ROUND OF VISITS TO EC-9 CAPITALS.
HE PAID A VISIT ON THE KING, HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME
MINISTER TINDEMANS AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE AND
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE CALLING ON THE EC.

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 02456 151351Z

2. SOARES TOLD THE BELGIANS THAT PORTUGAL WANTED FULL EC
MEMBERSHIP AND WOULD NOT SETTLE FOR ASSOCIATION OR SOME
OTHER FORM OF HALFWAY STATUS. HE SAID THAT THE THREE MAJOR
CENTRIST PARTIES SHARED HIS VIEW ON THE NEED FOR
PORTUGAL FULLY TO ENTER THE EC AND THAT PORTUGAL WOULD
MAKE A FORMAL APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AT THE END OF
MARCH. THE BELGIANS INDICATED THEIR SYMPATHY TO FULL

PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP AND FORMALLY DENIED RUMORS THAT BELGIUM OPPOSED IT. THE BELGIANS SAID THAT BELGIUM WAS PREPARED TO TRY TO ARRANGE FOR EC-PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE PORTUGAL BECAME A FULL MEMBER OF THE EC.

3. SOARES REJECTED THE "GLOBALIZATION" OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ASKED THAT EACH APPLICATION BE TREATED INDIVIDUALLY. HE SAID THAT HE WANTED PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP TO GO FASTER THAN THAT OF SPAIN BECAUSE (A) PORTUGAL HAD ACHIEVED DEMOCRACY EARLIER THAN SPAIN AND (B) THERE WOULD BE FEWER PROBLEMS FOR THE EC IN ACCOMMODATING PORTUGAL'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS THAN THOSE OF SPAIN. THE BELGIANS REPLIED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO TAKE ALL THREE CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP INTO ACCOUNT, I.E., THAT A "GLOBAL" APPROACH WAS NECESSARY EVEN THOUGH NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE CONDUCTED INDIVIDUALLY.

4. THE DISCUSSION IN PARA 3 ABOVE LED TINDEMANS TO EXPRESS SOME CONCERN THAT THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EC MIGHT SLOW DOWN STEPS AMONG THE NINE TO ACHIEVE FURTHER UNITY. HE REFERRED TO THE CONCEPT AND NEED FOR MAJORITY VOTING IN THE EC, WHICH HE HAD SET FORTH IN THE TINDEMANS REPORT. SOARES TOLD TINDEMANS THAT PORTUGAL SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A SUPRA-NATIONAL STATUS FOR THE EC AND WOULD FAVOR EC DECISIONS TAKEN BY MAJORITY VOTE. RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EE, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE02456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770088-0985
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770356/aaaabxie.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01fb80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3098427
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOARES VISIT TO BELGIUM
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, PO, BE, (SOARES, MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01fb80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009